THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Support material for receiving a photographic, an ink jet or a thermal transfer image receptive layer thereon and coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, said support material containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with [[a]] an image free pigment coating, wherein the synthetic resin which receives the image receptive layer thereon is a polyolefin resin on the image free pigment coating, and wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% by weight of the pigment particles have a size of less than about 1μm and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8μm.

2. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the pigment is a calcium carbonate.

3. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight kaolin.

4. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m^2.

5. (Original) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the raw paper is a slightly compressed paper with a density of less than about 1 g/cm^3.

6. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the pigment coating contains calcium carbonate which has a surface modified by an inorganic substance in platelet shape.

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 6, wherein the proportion of the surface modified calcium carbonate pigment in the total amount of pigment amounts to at least about 5% by weight.

9. (Previously Cancelled)

10. (Original) Support material according to claim 6, wherein the pigment coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight of clay.

11. (Original) Support material according to claim 8, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m^2.

12. (Withdrawn) Process for the manufacture of a support material coated on at least one side with a synthetic resin, containing a raw paper provided at least on the front side with a pigment coating, applying a coating containing at least one pigment on the front side of the raw paper, at least about 5% by weight of the pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% of the pigment particles have a size of less than about 1μm, and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8 μm, and applying a resin on the side of the raw paper coated with the pigment, by extrusion, at a speed of up to 600 m/min.

13. (Withdrawn) Process according to claim 12, wherein the resin is extruded onto the pigment coating of the raw paper at a speed of 350 to 600 m/min.

14.(Withdrawn) Process according to claim 12, wherein the coating of the raw paper is applied in two stages in such a way that first a preliminary layer containing pigment is first applied with an application weight of up to about 20 g/m^2 onto the raw paper, and then a coating containing a pigment with a narrow grain size distribution is applied, in which about 50% of the pigment particles feature a diameter of 0.7 μm.

15. (Currently Amended) Support material for an ink-jet ~~recording sheet~~ image receptive layer comprising a raw paper provided at least on the front side with [[a]] an image free pigment coating, ~~wherein the synthetic resin is~~ a polyolefin resin for receiving the image receptive layer on the image free pigment coating, and wherein the pigment coating contains at least about 5% by weight of a pigment having particles with a narrow grain distribution with respect to the weight of the total pigment in the pigment layer, whereby at least about 70% by weight of the pigment particles have a size of less than about 1µm and at least 40% by weight of the particles have a grain size of 0.35 to 0.8µm.

16. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the pigment is a calcium carbonate.

17. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the coating contains a pigment mixture which contains at least about 30 % by weight kaolin.

18. (Original) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the application weight of the coating amounts to a maximum of about 20 g/m^2.

19. (Previously Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the calcium carbonate has a surface modified by an inorganic substance in platelet shape.

21. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m^2.

22. (Previously Presented) The support material according to claim 6, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m^2.

23. (Previously Presented) The support material according to claim 15, wherein the synthetic resin is present in the amount of 5 to 30g/m^2.

24. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 1, wherein the roughness of the paper with the pigment coating is 0.5μm or less.

25. (Previously Presented) Support material according to claim 15, wherein the roughness of the paper with the pigment coating is 0.5μm or less.